

Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services

1595 County Services Pkwy. Marietta, GA 30008 2012

Annual Report





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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the men and women of Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services (CCFES), I wish to thank you for viewing our annual report. CCFES is a team of over 651 sworn firefighters and 32 civilian employees. Our Department is accredited through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and certified by the State of Georgia. We strive to provide superior fire, rescue, and emergency services to the citizens and visitors of Cobb County in a proficient, professional, and compassionate manner and we want to continuously promote life safety within the county by practicing prevention, planning, education, and training.

We place tremendous value on the relationships our Fire personnel build in the communities they serve. The success of the Department is due to both the strong commitment of our employees and the support they receive from the entire community. We believe the hard work and professionalism of our firefighters, inspectors, investigators, educators, and civilian staff members contribute to the safe environment enjoyed by those who live, work, and visit our great county.

Please take a few minutes to learn more about CCFES at our website at www.cobbfire.org. You will find that our employees are dedicated, well-trained, and enthusiastic professionals who take pride in their work. They are ready to work with you to make your home, your workplace, and your community an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

Sam D. Heaton

COBB COUNTY

Cobb County borders Atlanta to the North and West and is home to approximately 700,000 residents. We are home to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Lockheed Martin, Six Flags Over Georgia, and Home Depot Corporate Headquarters. Cobb is the third largest county in the State of Georgia. You will find an excellent community of quiet subdivisions and apartment complexes located near excellent schools, shopping, and churches. Recreational facilities are splendid and Cobb County is in a good location for a retreat to the mountains or a drive to the beach.

COBB FIRE HISTORY

Cobb County fire protection had been divided into local fire districts and city departments prior to January 24, 1971. On this date, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to form a consolidated, all-paid, career county fire department. The department covers 305 square miles of the unincorporated areas of Cobb as well as three of the six incorporated cities within Cobb: Kennesaw, Acworth, and Powder Springs. The cities of Marietta, Smyrna, and Austell provide their own fire protection. CCFES has evolved into a 683 member, full-service agency. Cobb Fire personnel are trained to respond skillfully to fire, medical, and disaster emergencies. We provide a highly proficient, comprehensive level of service incorporating the following divisions: Response which includes Fire Suppression; Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Special Operations which includes Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Medical Operations; Preparedness which includes Training, Facility Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance, and Public Fire & Life Safety Education; Fire Prevention which includes Plan Review, Inspections, and Sprinklers; and Administrative and Support Services which includes Fire Investigations, Records Management, and Finance. The department serves approximately 700,000 citizens and daily visitors of the community.

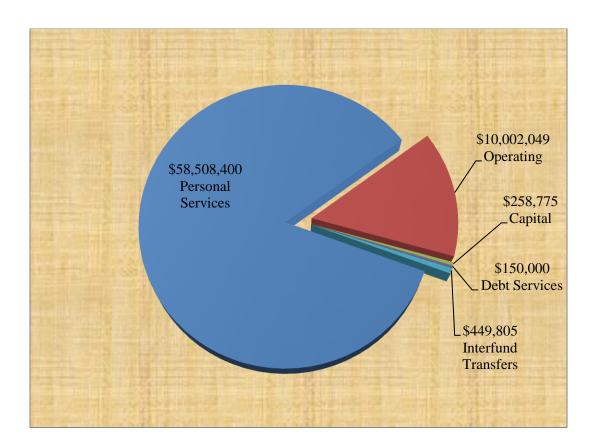
MISSION STATEMENT

Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services (CCFES) exists to provide superior fire, rescue, and emergency services to the citizens and visitors of Cobb County in a proficient, professional, and compassionate manner. We continuously promote life safety within the county by practicing prevention, planning, education, and training.

BUDGET

CCFES FY2012 adopted budget was \$69,369,029. The total allotted number of fire positions for 2012 was 669, of those, 637 were authorized sworn positions and 32 were civilian positions. The department purchased two new F-250 Crew Cab diesel trucks for Battalion Chiefs in Northwest and Southeast Cobb, two F-150 Crew Cabs for use as hydrant trucks, and an E-250 Cargo van for use as the logistics vehicle. Three new Pierce Engines, which cost \$497,000 each, were funded with money from the 2011 SPLOST one percent sales tax.

CCFES is a good steward of taxpayer funds. As such, the Department's operating costs are less than 7% of the total budget. The apparatuses purchased above with 2011 SPLOST funds will reduce overall costs further by decreasing fuel and maintenance costs, while increasing overall effectiveness by the use of improved technology with the updated equipment.



CCFES GRANTS & DONATIONS - 2012 CALENDAR YEAR

January The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation donated \$4,972 to CCFES for fire &

life safety education programs.

January By approving a Memorandum of Understanding to assist in the response to

disasters in the region, CCFES was awarded equipment valued at \$454,365

through the Metro Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) from the

Georgia Department of Homeland Security. This equipment provides protective

and decontamination gear in the event of a disaster.

February The Teletrix Corporation donated to CCFES a radiation training simulator valued

at \$2,500.

March CCFES was awarded a \$20,000 Homeland Security grant for the continuation and

enhancement of CCFES' participation in the Georgia Search & Rescue Team

response efforts.

March The Colonial Pipeline Company donated \$7,000 to sponsor two CCFES'

personnel to attend flammable liquid firefighting training in Beaumont, Texas.

May The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation donated \$500 for the Cobb County

Public Safety Education Block Party Safety Program.

June The CCFES HazMat Team was awarded a \$20,000 Homeland Security grant for

the continuation and enhancement of CCFES' hazardous materials mitigation and

response efforts.

September The Georgia Pacific Corporation made a \$1,000 donation to CCFES for Public

Fire & Life Safety education programs.

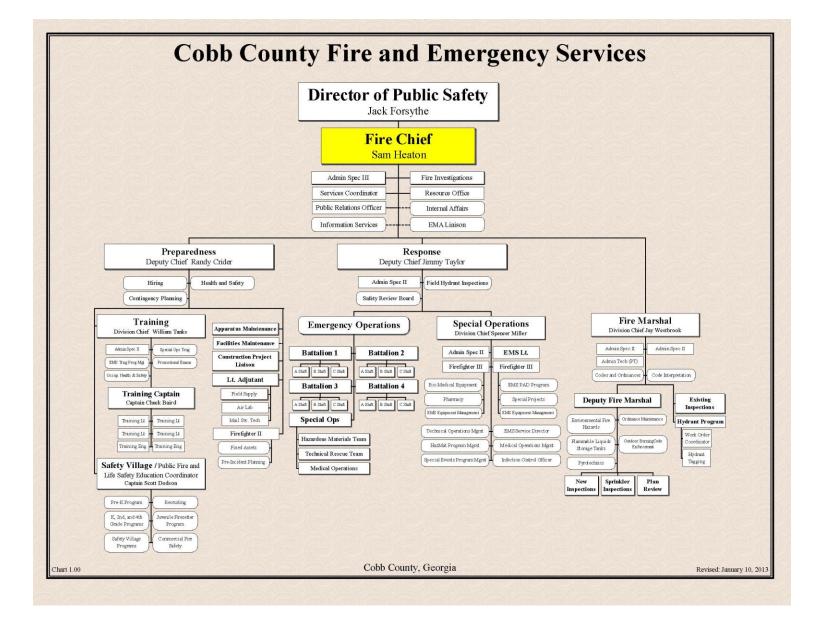
September The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation donated \$5,327 for fire & life safety

prevention, outreach, and educational programs.

November The Kidde Corporation donated 100 Dual Sensor Photo/Ion Smoke Alarms for

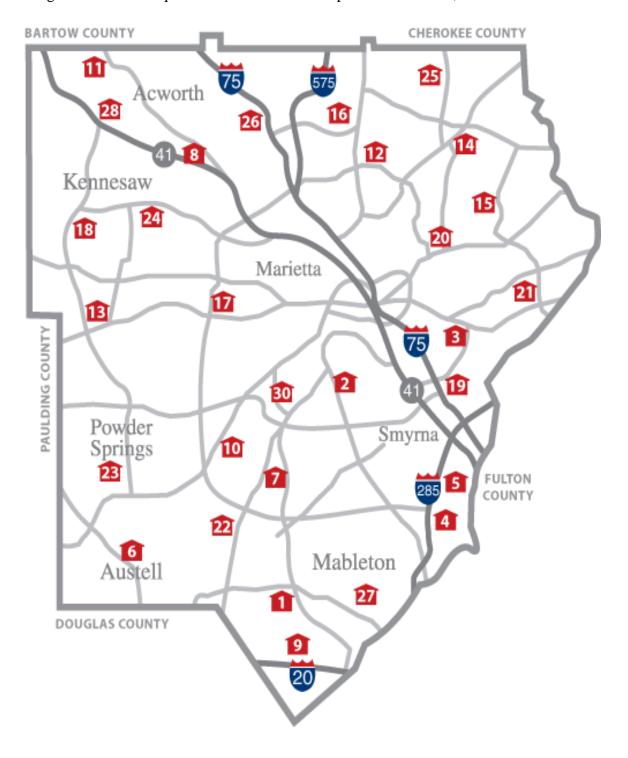
free distribution and installation in homes of Cobb County citizens.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FIRE STATIONS

Cobb Fire and Emergency Services has 29 fire stations strategically located throughout Cobb County and provides services to rural, urban, and heavily populated high-rise communities covering an area of 305 square miles. In 2012 we responded to over 48,000 calls.



INCIDENTS AND RESPONSE TIMES

RESPONSE TIMES

Response times are obviously important in Fire/EMS response. As response times increase, fires increase in size and intensity. In 2012, CCFES was able to contain fires to the room and content of origin with the first-in engine 64% of the time. With emergency medical calls, increased response times translate to increased death rates. This is due to the importance of the "Golden Hour" (the survival rate drops when patients with serious illness or injury do not receive adequate medical intervention).

While CCFES cannot control traffic volume and flow in their response, we have improved our over- all response times by decreasing our turnout times, which is the amount of time it takes a crew to get dressed in their personal protective gear and leave the station after the call is received. Below are the response times for 2012 for all Fire and EMS calls. The times are broken into "average response times" and "90th percentile times". This allows the department a more accurate evaluation of our performance measures.

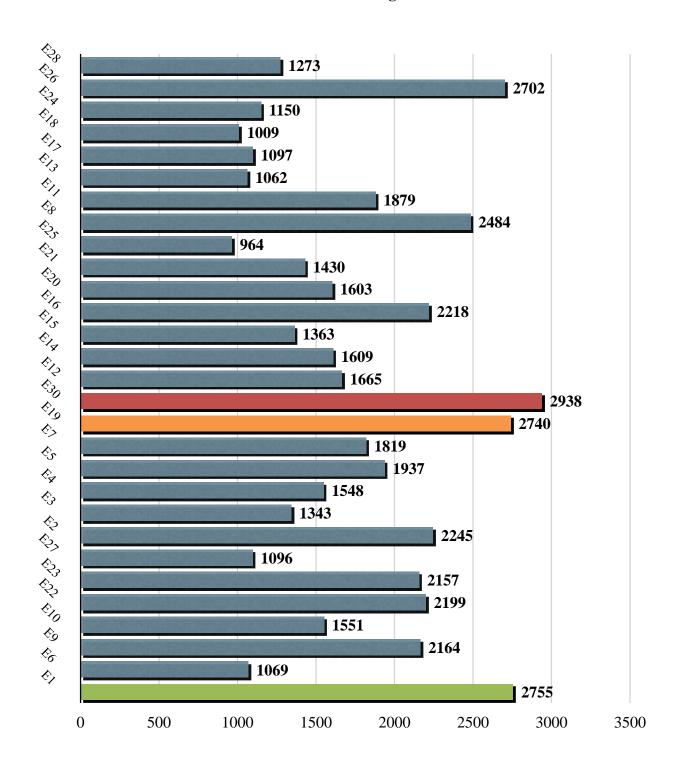
90th Percentile Emergency Unit Response - All					
	2010	2011	2012		
Call Processing (sec.)					
90th	00:03:24	00:03:08	00:03:06		
Average	00:01:52	00:01:50	00:01:51		
Turnout (sec.)					
90th	00:02:52	00:02:44	00:01:53		
Average	00:01:31	00:01:15	00:01:03		
Travel (sec.)					
90th	00:08:16	00:08:07	00:08:17		
Average	00:04:59	00:05:07	00:05:19		
Total (sec.)					
90th	00:11:37	00:11:25	00:11:24		
Average	00:08:23	00:08:13	00:08:14		

^{*}The following page provides response times for fire related calls only.

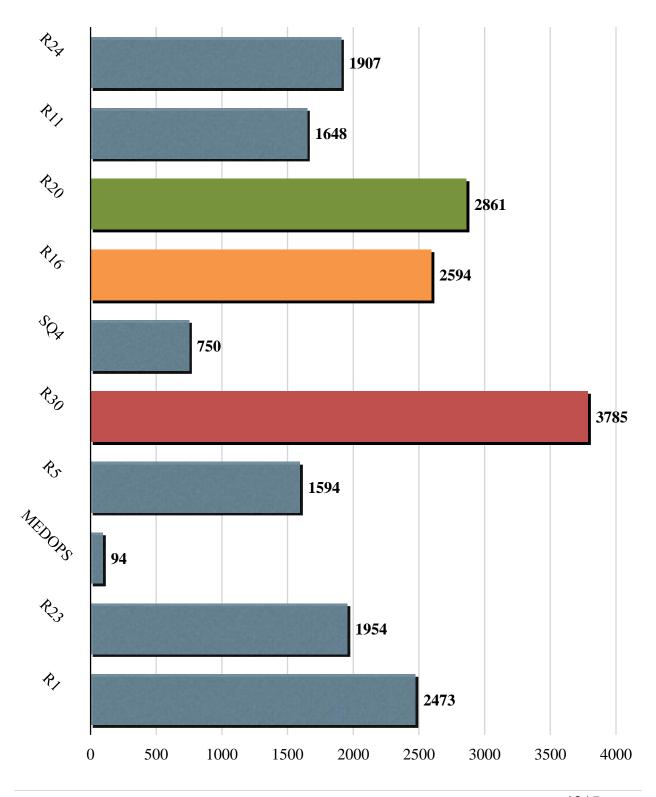
RESPONSE TIMES (CONT.)

90th Percentile Emergency Unit Response - Fire				
	2010	2011	2012	
Call Processing (sec.)				
90th	00:02:42	00:02:47	00:02:39	
Average	00:01:23	00:01:29	00:01:30	
Turnout (sec.)				
1st Unit 90th	00:02:51	00:02:10	00:01:45	
Average	00:01:30	00:01:25	00:00:59	
All Units 90th	00:03:09	00:02:27	00:02:08	
Average	00:01:23	00:01:25	00:01:10	
Travel (sec.)				
1st Unit 90th	00:06:02	00:07:21	00:06:07	
Average	00:03:39	00:04:33	00:04:18	
All Units 90th	00:10:29	00:10:23	00:10:21	
Average	00:05:40	00:05:44	00:05:50	
Total (sec.)				
90th	00:12:37	00:12:55	00:12:46	
Average	00:08:52	00:08:38	00:08:31	

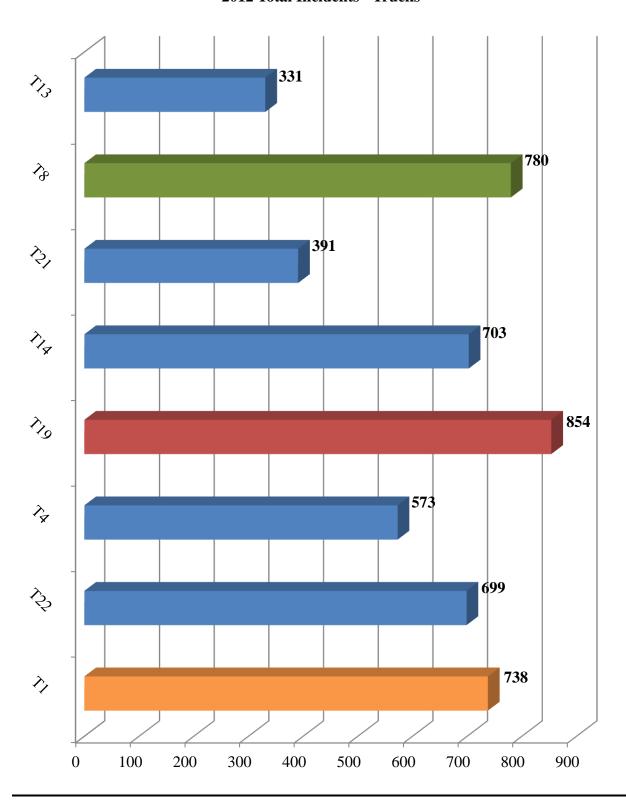
2012 Total Incidents - Engines



2012 Incidents - Rescue/Squad/MEDOPS

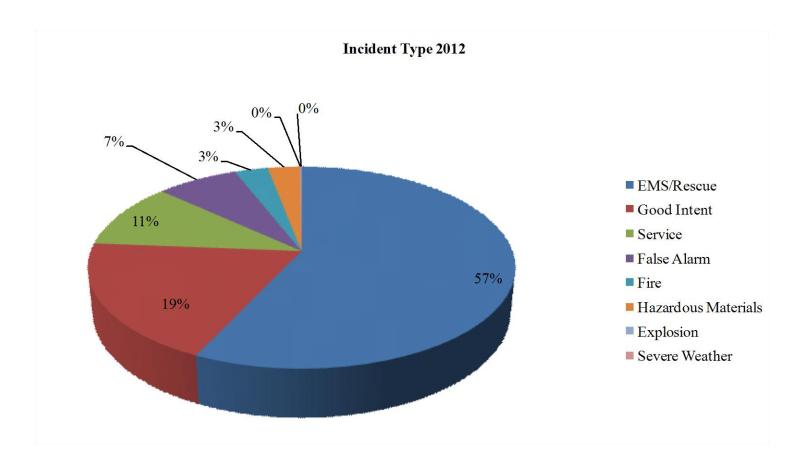


2012 Total Incidents - Trucks



RESPONSE TYPE AND TOTALS

Type	2012
EMS/Rescue	27411
Good Intent	9259
Service	5074
False Alarm	3480
Fire	1425
Hazardous Materials	1373
Explosion	33
Severe Weather	30
Total	48085

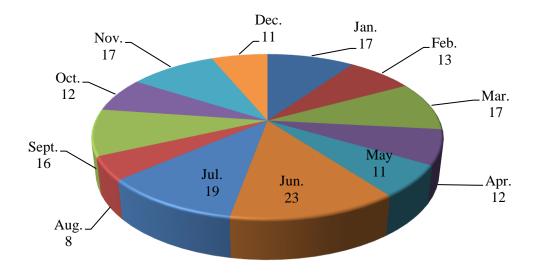


FIRE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT - CHIEF INVESTIGATOR ROD SANDERS

The Fire Investigations Unit consists of five sworn personnel who are dually sworn and certified in the State of Georgia as both Fire Investigators and Police Officers. These investigators handle fires of suspicious origin, initiate criminal charges when appropriate, execute search and arrest warrants, and prepare cases for criminal prosecution through the Courts. They are also responsible for enhancing access to public and commercial establishments by enforcing fire lanes within the mandated unincorporated areas of Cobb County. Additional duties also include the administration of the Juvenile Firesetter Program and illegal outdoor burning violations in the County.

Categories	2011	2012	% Change
Fires in Cobb	1475	1424	-4%
Fires Investigated	178	176	-1%
Arrests	10	2	-400%
Referral to Juvenile Firesetter Program	18	22	18%
Fire Fatalities	2	1	-100%
Fires Ruled as Accidental	47	30	-57%
Fires Ruled as Incendiary	28	38	26%
Fires Ruled as Undetermined	99	104	5%
Fire Lane Citations Issued	263	416	37%
Outdoor Burning Citations Issued	21	63	67%

2012 FIRE INVESTIGATIONS



FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE - DIVISION CHIEF JAY WESTBROOK

The Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) consists of: 1 Division Chief, 2 Captains, 3 Plan Reviewers, 11 Inspectors who handle all new and existing buildings and structures, and 3 civilian administrative personnel.

The FMO is tasked with enforcing "Rules and Regulations for the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards" as adopted by the State Fire Commissioner. The FMO is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in these matters for all of unincorporated Cobb County and the cities of Acworth, Powder Springs, and Kennesaw. The major functions of the office include:

- Conducting fire & life safety inspections of existing buildings and structures.
- Reviewing plans and specifications for proposed buildings and structures; issue joint building permits with the Building Departments when plans are approved.
- Issuing joint Certificates of Occupancy with the Building Departments of Cobb County, Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs when all appropriate inspections have been approved.

Cobb County is 1 of 54 counties in Georgia that is under the enforcement of the state-issued burning ban from May 1st through October 1st each year. The FMO oversees the daily monitoring of environmental conditions and enforcement of violations from inception through adjudication in the Courts for unincorporated Cobb County and the cities of Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE ACTIVITIES

New Construction	2011	2012	%
	Totals	Totals	Change
Consultation Meetings	477	360	-33%
Plan Reviews Completed	3651	3817	4%
Zoning Case Reviews	188	169	-11%
Permits Issued	1540	1636	6%
Sprinkler Division Inspections Completed	1563	1772	12%
New Construction Life Safety Inspections Completed	4176	4230	1%
TOTAL New Construction Inspections	5739	6002	4%
Total REQUESTED New Construction Inspections	4838	5122	6%
Permits Closed (Life Safety Releases Issued)	1577	1533	-3%

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Existing Building	2011	2012	%
	Totals	Totals	Change
Existing Building Initial Inspections	1239	1559	21%
Existing Building Re-Inspections	746	730	-2%
Total Existing Building Inspections Completed	1985	2289	13%
Sprinkler Activation Inspections Completed	70	53	-32%
Fire Code Complaints Closed	272	325	16%
Legal Warnings and Citations (Mainly Burn Related)	1242	1517	18%

OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS 2007-2012

2012	1,079
2011	865
2010	952
2009	680
2008	328
2007	724

TRAINING DIVISION

The Cobb County Fire Training Division has the responsibility of preparing Fire Department personnel to execute the mission and vision of Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services. The Division is staffed with 11 dedicated professionals who serve the training needs of more than 630 sworn firefighters, officers, and chiefs. The Division is augmented with 1 videographer from TV23 and a part-time physical fitness coordinator. Together this team of 13 contributed to the following achievements for the 2012 year:

- Facilitated more than 150,000 hours of documented training fulfilling state requirements and standards commensurate with an ISO rating of 3
- Validated the physical agility test while simultaneously administering the annual fitness test for more than 500 fire personnel
- Administered the physical abilities test for 272 pre-hire candidates
- Conducted two multi-company department-wide drills
- Host training facility for the Metro Atlanta Firefighters Conference providing facilities support for more than 500 fire professionals from around the country

- Home facility for 12 16 fire explorers weekly as members of Cobb Fire Explorer Post #33
- Completed Fire Apparatus Operator Training for 272 firefighters
- Administered a Pump Qualification process for 116 engineer candidates
- Provided Battalion Officer Training for 34 Fire Captains and Battalion Chiefs
- Started a recruit academy of 34 fire recruits with 20 recruits successfully obtaining NPQ Firefighter II Status and another 14 becoming nationally registered EMTs.

The mission of the Training Division is to support the mission of the department by creating a positive training environment for all Cobb personnel and visitors to our facility. The 2012 year saw great strides in the areas of job specific training through programs such as the Incident Safety Officer program. As a result of the Incident Safety Officer program all our Lieutenants are documented as National Professional Qualified Incident Safety Officers. Our Fire Apparatus program brings our apparatus operator training in compliance with NFPA 1451. The Division delivered the first ever Battalion Car rider training through the use of Fire Studio 5 for all of our Battalion Captains and Chiefs. The division met the demands of fiscal restraints through resourcefulness and ingenuity. Through the use of E-cademy the Division converted core competency task books to a digital format eliminating the need for 550 paper task booklets. With an alternative use of standard construction material the Division upgraded our twenty year old fire training facility resulting in improvements in safety and a cost savings of \$24,000. The 2012 year was a very productive year for the CCFES Training Division.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

Within the ranks of CCFES resides the Special Operations Division. This consists of the Medical Operations Unit, Technical Rescue Team (TRT), and Hazardous Materials Team. Members of these groups volunteer for assignment for these additional specialized duties. Events this year were covered by both Event Team members and some Engine Companies. Some of the events covered this year included:

- February 11, 2012 Mardi Gras 5K on the Marietta Square CCFES Bike Team
- March 10, 2012 Silver Comet 1/2 Marathon CCFES Bike Team
- May 5, 2012 Fallen Officer 5K Station 13 (B Shift)
- May 19, 2012 Pro Wake Board Tournament TRT & Station 11 (A Shift)
- June 24, 2012 Acworth Triathlon TRT and Station 11 (A Shift)

MEDICAL OPERATIONS (MEDOPS)

The team responded to 50 incidents during the first half of the year:

- 28 High-risk warrants served with Cobb County Police Department (CCPD), Cobb County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), and Marietta/ Cobb/ Smyrna Organized Crime Unit
- 9 SWAT call-outs with CCPD with barricaded suspects, 1 barricaded suspect with CCSO SWAT
- 8 with CCFES
- 2 with CCFES Hazmat Team
- 1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal with CCPD Bomb Squad
- 1 with Marietta Fire Department

On April 26, 2012 the MedOps Team was recognized by the Cobb Bar Association by receiving the "Public Safety Officer of the Year" Award at their annual awards ceremony. This award can be presented to an individual or a team based on their contributions toward the improvement of public safety to the citizens of Cobb County. Congratulations to the MedOps Team!



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM (TRT)

On 5/1/12, the CCFES Technical Rescue Team, Engine 9, Truck 1, and Car 101 (A Shift), participated in a mass casualty drill with the First Aid and Security Departments of Six Flags over Georgia. The scenario was an incident involving the Sky Buckets ride. In the drill several of the cars had fallen with multiple injuries and there were two victims trapped in a bucket that could not be accessed by a ladder truck. Engine 9 assisted with the care of the victims and 101 established Incident Command. The TRT then performed an aerial rescue that involved one of the TRT members riding a rigging system along the cable to the stranded car. After establishing a lowering system, the "victims" were lowered to the ground. The scenario went very well and the team gathered a great deal of information that could be used to handle a future incident. Six Flags was very pleased with the results and all the crews involved represented our department well. Great job!

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM (HAZMAT)

For the second year in a row Colonial Pipeline paid for two members of the Hazmat Team to go to Beaumont, Texas for the Xtreme Industrial Fire & Hazard Training School sponsored by Williams Fire and Hazard Control. From May 14-17, 2012 the students were exposed to the latest in industrial petroleum storage firefighting techniques. The class consists of case studies, tactical studies, field logistics, fixed systems, foam chemistry, and live fire exercises. This year's participants were Eng. George Weatherford (8C) and FF Joe Thomas (22B).

On May 14, 2012, the Hazmat Team (B shift) assisted Kennesaw State University's School of Nursing class with a simulated hazmat release followed by a live decontamination drill. The team demonstrated both mass casualty gross decontamination and ambulatory and non-ambulatory technical decontamination. Several of the students served as patients and the training went well for both agencies.

On June 6, 2012, the Hazmat Team participated in a joint training exercise at the Cobb County Safety Village. This exercise involved units from CCFES, CCPD Bomb Squad, Cobb-Douglas Public Health, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Radiation officers, and the National Guard Civil Support Teams (CSTs) of Georgia (4th), South Carolina (43rd), and Alabama (46th). The scenario involved a radiological dispersion device (a live radiation source was used), an explosion, and a mass casualty situation. A technical decontamination line was established and members of the CCFES Hazmat Team were integrated into Hazard Identification Teams (HIT) along with members of the different EOD teams and CSTs. The scenario was good practice on techniques that can be used for pre-planning on large events. The Team was also recognized on the cover of the June 2012 issue of *Georgia Guardsman Newsletter* for their participation.

PUBLIC FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

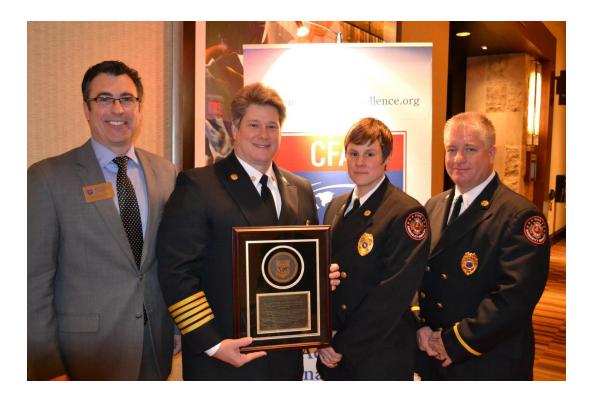
Since 1976, CCFES has conducted a state of the art public safety education program, free of charge to the community. Prior to the opening of the Cobb County Safety Village, personnel traveled to Cobb County schools, senior centers, assisted living facilities, and other organizations to deliver instruction on fire prevention and other life safety topics. Although we still travel to some schools and businesses to educate people on fire prevention, a majority of the training provided to students is done at the Safety Village. By having the students come to us, Cobb Fire has been able to reduce overtime costs for educators while providing better training to students. (See classes and students taught below).

The delivery of this instruction primarily targets children, the elderly, and other identified at-risk populations. Upon request to targeted individuals, smoke detectors are issued and installed free of charge. With the opening of the Safety Village, delivery of instruction is enhanced and more people can be reached. This unique public-private partnership with corporate sponsors is the first of its kind in Georgia.

Age Level	Classes Taught	Student Totals
Pre-K	149	2245
Kindergarten	465	7543
2 nd Grade	515	9781
4 th Grade	464	9491
Corporate Cobb	198	29677
Senior Safety	22	313
Summer Camps	13	195
Special Events	32 Events Attended	
Totals	1,826	59,245

CCFES is committed to the community and it shows. Not only does CCFES educate the community, but we also provide free smoke detectors to those in need. Last year CCFES distributed 505 smoke alarms, installed 23. Additionally CCFES raised \$53,271.44 during the 23rdAnnual "Give Burns the Boot" Campaign for The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation donated \$5,327 to fire & life safety prevention, outreach, and educational programs.

ACCREDITATION



In March Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services was successfully Re-Accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Accreditation is a process of self assessment and evaluation by peers and the CFAI. The process allows us to achieve excellence through self assessment in order to promote continuous quality improvements and enhancement of service delivery to our communities. With this accreditation, Cobb County Public Safety now has Police, 911 Communications, and Fire as Accredited agencies. The essence of Accreditation is being thoroughly examined by a panel of subject matter experts in the areas of practice, policies, procedures, and community involvement and input that meet a National Standard of Excellence.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cobb County Firefighters Win Charity Cooking Competition

A team from Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services won SafePath Children's Advocacy Center's Good Eatin' Great Cause 2012 competition. Ryan McKay, Adam Storey, Ian Martin, Brian Dougherty, and Stoney Bowles earned the SafePath Iron Skillet Award. They donated their prize of 40 pounds of chicken to the Atlanta Mission, a local food bank.

Cobb Chamber Public Safety Employee of the Year and Cobb County Customer Service Award Recipients



CCFES' Lt. Kyle Smith (Station19-A) was honored in October as the Cobb Chamber's Public Safety Employee of the Year. His commitment and devotion to constantly improving his skills led to an instructor's role at the Fire Department Instructors Conference and the Fire Rescue International Conference. He is also a founding member of the Metro Atlanta Fire Fighters Conference and traveled to Ekiti, Nigeria on his own last year to help in the establishment of a local fire department.

CCFES' Lt. Kyle Smith and Engr. Sean Gray (Station 19-A) were recognized by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners in July as Quarterly Customer Service Award Winners. Together they secretly raised funds for a deserving coworker to attend valuable training out of town. In addition, they initiated an "adopt-a-family" effort last Christmas to raise funds, shop and deliver items to a needy family – donating additional monies from their own pockets to make sure they could fulfill the childrens' wish list. Both continuously go out of their way to encourage and help members of their crew to learn and grow in their roles.



Lieutenant Kyle Smith



Engineer Sean Gray

First Annual Public Safety Education Block Party



On Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the entrance of Parkview Apartments, 360 Six Flags Dr. in Austell, Cobb Fire participated in the First Annual Public Safety Block Party. The event featured the fire safety house, music, food, Sparky the Dog, Fire, Police, 911, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Austell Community Task Force and the Neighborhood Safety Commission. The intent was to have public safety officials and community partners share safety tips and meet citizens of the South Cobb community.

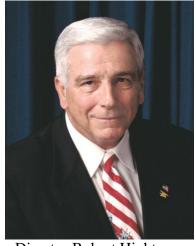
Cobb County Safety Village "Touch-A-Truck"

On Saturday, September 29, 2012, the Cobb County Safety Village held its first "Touch-A-Truck" event at Town Center Mall. The fundraiser for the Safety Village was a fun day of handson learning for children, where they explored different vehicles and apparatus. For \$5 per person or a \$20 family maximum, you could get up close and personal with Fire Engines, Rescue Trucks, Police Cars, SWAT Trucks, a Helicopter, Military Trucks, Television Trucks, and other heavy construction vehicles. The event raised over \$15,000 for the Safety Village Foundation.





In 2012 Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services lost six Public Safety retirees.



Director Robert Hightower 1934-2012



Lieutenant Johnny Dale Riley April 1, 2012

Engineer Ronnie McPherson-January 29, 2012 (Photo not available)



Engineer John Kelly, Sr. 1957-2012



Assistant Chief H. K. Nixon April 5, 2012

* Engineer Earl Moss-October 2, 2012